INFORMATION SYSTEMS TECHNICIANS EARNING A+ CERTIFICATION
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GREAT LAKES, Ill. – To ensure Sailors in the information technology field are given

the same opportunities to demonstrate technical proficiency as their industry

counterparts, the Information Technology Specialist A school introduced Computing

Technology Industry Association A+ certification. Recently, class 03290 joined the

certified ranks, and made Navy history by achieving 100 percent class certification.

When, in September 2002 the school revised its curriculum to support A+ certification

requirements, the pilot classes averaged no higher than 20 percent certification rates. But

by integrating graphic intensive presentations and introducing innovative computer

component displays, the school made significant improvements in both the delivery and

content of the information systems curriculum, with the goal of 100 percent certification.

Additionally, instructors were required to become 100 percent certified and demonstrate

curriculum mastery through staff training. But, while many school staff members believe

improved instructor training has paid dividends toward improved certification rates, they

don't believe that tells the whole story. IT1 Charles Moore, class 03290 primary

instructor, said the key to success is motivation and building a team environment.

"To ensure no Sailor gets left behind, I encourage group studying and teamwork," he said

in regard to the importance of leadership and teambuilding in the classroom. "A large

part of a class's overall success depends upon how well the class grows as a team and

accepts learning as the team's primary mission."

Lt. Todd Dombrowski, school officer in charge, is thrilled about the progress his staff and Sailors have made in the A+ certification process, averaging close to a 90 percent certification rate during November 2003.

"This achievement is a credit to the resourcefulness and competitive spirit of our Sailors. The Navy pays for these professionals to earn an industry certification that will benefit the Fleet, their Navy careers, and beyond, so it is in everyone's best interest to see them succeed."

Increased certification opportunities and curriculum development are just a few of the initiatives underway within the IT community. To learn more, visit the Center for Information Technology page on Navy Knowledge Online at www.nko.navy.mil